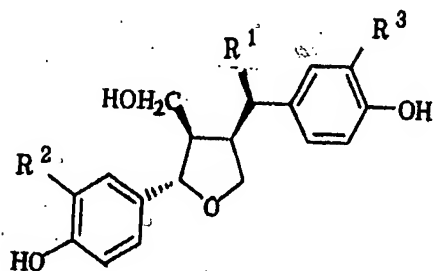


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A hypoglycaemic agent comprising a compound shown in the formula

(1)

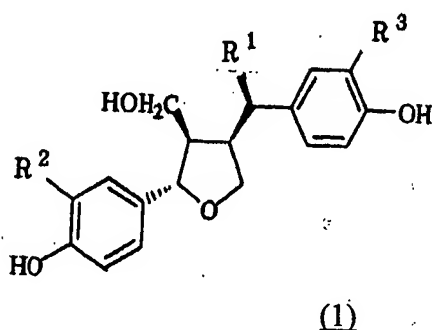


(1)

(wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a hydrogen or a hydroxyl group,  $\text{R}^2$  is either ~~an alkyloxy group or a hydroxyl group, both with the~~ a hydroxyl group or an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4, and  $\text{R}^3$  is an alkyloxy group with ~~[[the]]~~ a carbon number of 1 to 4) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said compound in the formula (1) as an effective ingredient,  
wherein said hypoglycaemic agent decreases blood glucose levels.

2-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A hepatoprotective agent comprising ~~said compound shown in the formula (1)~~ a compound shown in the formula (1)

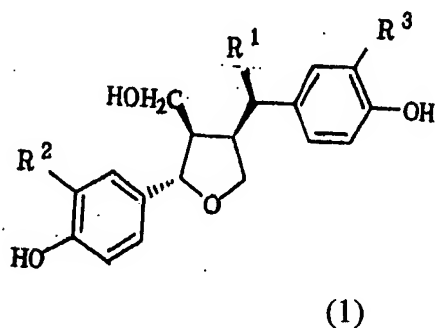


(wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, R<sup>2</sup> is either a hydroxyl group or an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4, and R<sup>3</sup> is an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said compound in the formula (1) as an effective ingredient,

wherein said hepatoprotective agent inhibits an increase in levels of glutamic-pyruvic transaminase and glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase in bloom serum.

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Attorney Docket No. 043157

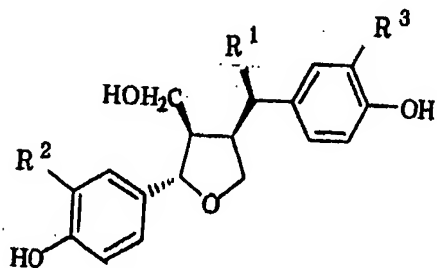
10. (New) A method of reducing the blood glucose level of a patient comprising the step of:  
administering to the patient a compound shown in the formula (1)



(wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a hydrogen or a hydroxyl group,  $\text{R}^2$  is either a hydroxyl group or an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4, and  $\text{R}^3$  is an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said compound in the formula (1) as an effective ingredient.

11. (New) A method of eliciting a hepatoprotective effect comprising the step of:

treating a patient with a compound shown in the formula (1)



(1)

(wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, R<sup>2</sup> is either a hydroxyl group or an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4, and R<sup>3</sup> is an alkyloxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 4) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said compound in the formula (1) as an effective ingredient.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said hepatoprotective effect is an inhibition of an increase in levels of glutamic-pyruvic transaminase and glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase in bloom serum.